

WILMINGTON OIL FIELD

The Wilmington oil field is the third largest field in the contiguous United States with an ultimate recovery estimated at three billion barrels of oil. The field is located on the 13 mile long and 3 mile wide Wilmington anticline that extends from onshore San Pedro to offshore Seal Beach and is divided vertically by faults creating separate producing entities called fault blocks. Oil is produced from 5 major sand intervals ranging in depths from 2,000 feet to 11,000 feet. Two and one-half billion barrels of oil have been recovered. Oil and gas are recovered through primary production and secondary water flooding. Over 5500 wells have been drilled.



West Wilmington oil field (Fault Blocks) which is located in the harbor area and has been active since 1932. It is an example of what new technology can accomplish. Because of an active water flooding program, due to controlling subsidence, the field still has many years of production left. TOPKO is the contractor responsible for maintaining the field production with no impact to the environment. TOPKO's safety program is considered by others in the industry as "State of the Art." TOPKO has never sustained an OSHA citation from 50 years of oil field operations.



LBU is operated by Thums as part of its partnership with the community.

The facilities are unique in the world and are toured by hundreds of visitors each year. Many foreign nations and other oil companies see the Long Beach oil islands as a prototype for possible similar operations in their own countries or company's future. From the first conception the challenge has been to develop this vast oil field without adversely affecting the scenic beauty, natural resources, or quality of life in and around Long Beach Harbor. It has resulted in a development project with a long track record of safety and environmental success that is known and respected throughout the oil industry.

